

NSC BRIEFING

18 November 1955

**EAST GERMAN SITUATION**

- I. Travel to Berlin by civilian members of US, British and French staffs in Germany may soon be transferred to East German control.
  - A. This is suggested by recent Soviet queries to British authorities in Berlin regarding Allied documentation.
- II. USSR also hopes to circumvent Allied controls over Soviet travel in West Germany.
  - A. Sovereign West Germany will want to exercise control over Soviet travelers in her territory.
  - B. Bonn control of Soviet travelers would make it easier for the USSR to turn control of Allied travelers to Berlin over to East Germany.
- III. USSR may have plan of successive stages of increasing Allied contacts with the East Germans with a view to forcing Western recognition.
- IV. East German propaganda threats against Berlin continue.
- V. Last week's refugee flow into Berlin increased over previous week from 3839 to 4450.
  - A. Almost 50 percent of total refugees cross directly into West Germany.
    1. So total figure probably almost double that of Berlin count.
- VI. Morale continues low in East Germany.

43  
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- A. Soviet actions at Geneva have destroyed any remaining hopes for reunification of Germany.
- B. Prospects for food shortages during winter and for conscription will further lower morale.
- C. Another 17 June not expected.
  - 1. Rather than serious demonstrations against the regime, opposition will be reflected in a continued high refugee flow, unless forcefully stemmed by regime.

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